order to establish early warning signals for detection of disease outbreaks and take timely and appropriate action, the National Disease Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases is currentty in operation in 80 districts of the country. This is proposed to be extended to the entire country during the 10th Plan period.

Recommendations of ICMR regarding marketing of drugs

1562. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research, last year, recommended marketing of the drugs under strict supervision;

(b) the salient recommendations of the ICMR;

(c) whether Government have implemented the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and <b) No, Sir. ICMR recommended the marketing of the following three drugs during the last year without stipulating any special conditions:

1. Somatuline P.R. 30 mg. (prolonged release microspheres of lanreotide acetate).
2. Oral Contraceptive containing the fixed dose combination of Desogestrel and Ethinyl Estrodiol.
3. Interferon alpha 2b and R i bavi ri n (c om bi-pac k s).

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above. These drugs are required to be marketed under the general norms pertaining to sale of drugs under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules.

Diabetes affected children in Delhi

1563. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diabetes has affected 5000 to 6000 children in Delhi;

(b) whether the cost of insulin strips is high;

(c) whether Government intend to bring down the cost of this drug; and